

[5 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) 14,939 candidates appeared in the year 2005.

(d) Strict quality and standards in training of pilots are maintained and monitored by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officers. However to ensure availability of adequate number of trained pilots, Government in the Annual Plan 2006-07, has made a provision of Rs. 12.79 crores for releasing as Grants-in-Aid to Aero Club of India for procurement of aircraft to be allotted to identified needy flying clubs, approved by DGCA for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence. Government have decided to upgrade and modernise the training infrastructure at the premier flying training institute namely Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilot cadets per annum. A world class flying training institute is planned as a Joint Venture Enterprise under the aegis of Airports Authority of India, at Gondia, Maharashtra.

Attending of operational phones at airports

1342. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has duty officers and operational phones at all major airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that the phones are not properly attended to;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no phone is picked up at Chennai Airport before 10 A.M. in the morning;

(d) whether there is a similar practice at Kolkata and Mumbai Airport offices of Indian Airlines;

(e) how will Government improve the functioning of Indian Airlines at various airports; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Airlines' phones at all airports, including Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai, are attended to at all times. Efforts are constantly made to improve these services.

(e) and (f) Indian Airlines centralised Call Centre facility is available on 'All India' basis round the clock by dialing help line number 1407 or toll free number 1800-180-1407 through BSNL/MTNL lines. The Call Centre provides arrival/departure, seat availability status, fares, schedule, reservations, information on schemes and packages, tele-check, dial-a-ticket and other assistance. The Call Centre also has out bound sections located at six metros giving information on delayed/combined/re-scheduled/ disrupted flights. This information is also disseminated on all India basis to the passengers of affected flights through SMS facility on their mobile contacts from Call Centre at Delhi.

Investment made in Civil Aviation sector

1343. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any investment in the Civil Aviation sector in the country particularly in the State of Sikkim; and

(b) if so, the details of investment made during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. In respect of State of Sikkim, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Airports Authority of India and State Government of Sikkim for the construction of a Greenfield airport at Pakyong at an estimated cost of Rs. 340 crores.

(b) The State-wise details of investment made (Rupees in crores) during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 are: Andaman Nicobar Island-0.37, 1.04, 1.22; Andhra Pradesh-33.22, 77.59, 66.75; Assam-3.47, 7.11, 26.50; Bihar-12.66, 17.93, 9.74; Chhattisgarh-0.63, 1.27, 4.98; Delhi-42.12, 51.40, 86.68; Goa-2.42, 2.32, 2.21; Gujarat-32.57, 19.91, 35.92; Himachal Pradesh-4.41, 3.53, 8.10; Jammu & Kashmir-4.91, 6.46, 26.57; Jharkhand-0.45, 1.57, 2.19; Karnataka-3.52, 7.89, 32.07; Kerala-13.25, 25.12, 28.33; Lakshadweep Island-0.18, 0.06, 0.12; Madhya Pradesh-13.29, 14.49, 13.71; Maharashtra-50.94, 77.65, 137.88; Manipur-7.38, 1.95, 1.72; Meghalaya-0.67, 0.28, 0.09; Mizoram-0.00, 0.01, 0.00; Nagaland-3.25, 2.54, 1.52; Orissa-0.79, 5.05, 9.19; Punjab-25.94, 27.41, 20.09; Rajasthan-21.47, 6.80, 9.32; Tamil Nadu-34.25, 69.84, 95.36; Tripura-11.98, 3.67, 1.86;